



# Health Facts

*for you*

## UW HEALTH - ONLINE HEALTH FACT

### **Radiology IV Contrast Extravasation**

Intravenous (IV) contrast has leaked under your skin at the injection site. Most of the time, this is not a serious problem. You can help decrease your chance of injury.

1. Raise your arm above the level of the heart, as much as you can, until the swelling goes down.
2. For the first 24 hours, apply light pressure to the swollen area for 15 minutes every 1 to 2 hours until the swelling goes down.

Swelling or redness of the IV site can last for 1 to 2 days. It is common to feel a dull ache at the site.

The contrast will slowly be absorbed back into your system, and then disappear. Your arm should return to normal within 2 to 3 days.

#### **When to call your doctor or the Radiology Department**

1. Numbness or tingling of the lower arm or hand
2. Redness or streaks at the injection site
3. Blisters at the site
4. Increased pain that does not get better over time
5. Coolness of the lower arm or hand
6. Any increase in the size of your arm

Call Radiology, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at **(608) 263-8300**.

After hours, weekends, or holidays, this phone number will connect you to the paging operator. Ask for the Radiology doctor on call. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

If you live out of the area, call **1-800-323-8942**.